

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Location: Marriott: 5500 Hilton Drive, Baton Rouge, LA

October 20, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Edwin Parker, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Ben Babin, James Little, Larry Thomas, Richard St. Pierre, Don Thompson, Wade Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Willie George Lee, Jerry Thibeau, Tamiara Wade

VACANCY: St. Helena Parish

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry S. Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Parker.
2. Roll Call (see above).
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
4. 2019-20 Audit Report: John McKowen, CPA: The audit reflected no violations of state rules or deficiencies in the financial statements. In the opinion of the auditor the ARBC is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and the Legislative Auditors Office, as well as internal controls of financial matters within the district. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by Hoover to accept the audit report as presented.
5. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by St. Pierre, second by Little to approve the August 2020 regular meeting minutes. Note: There was no meeting held in September 2020 due to a hurricane.
6. Financial Statement Report
Bailey presented to the Board the August/September 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, second by Babin to approve the August/September 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
7. Executive Director Report
 - Comite River Diversion Canal Project: Rietschier said that the construction of the Project is currently in the hands of the USACE and DOTD. ARBC remains 1 of 4 partners of the Project. Monthly meetings are held to provide updates and discussion amongst the 4 partners. He provided the status of the construction, real estate, rights-of-way, and utility relocation of the project.
 - LA DOTD Report: Utility Relocations and ROW acquisitions are ongoing. LA 964 Bridge design complete. LA 67 Bridge design 30% finals. LA 19 and GOCR bridge design 30% finals.
 - Rietschier continues to work with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative in Region 7.
 - Bob Jacobsen said that the biggest issue is how to set up government structure across parish boundaries.
8. ARBC Legal Counsel: Regarding the Watershed Initiative, the governor made the decision that there needs to be better coordination between parishes, and that is what created this process. Senator Mills was trying to create an overview of projects of the entire state. ARBC reached out to Senator Mills to advise him that there is already a process in our area. The entire watershed effort is being required by the federal government as a condition of receiving over \$1.2 billion of funds for flooding.
9. Old Business: None
10. New Business: Appointment of ARBC representative to CRDC Task Force.
ARBC President Parker appointed Larry Thomas to the CRDC Task Force. For the record, a vote of the Board is not a requirement, however the Board unanimously made motion by Hoover, second by Thompson agreeing with the appointment of Larry Thomas as ARBC representative to the CRDC Task Force.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

APPROVED:

/s/ Edwin Parker, ARBC President

Date: 1/19/21

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary